


INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE AND ENERGY OPPORTUNITY ZONE SUMMIT



SUMMIT 2023

The Innovation in Agriculture and Energy Opportunity Zone Summit (IAEOZ) was developed to foster collaborations to implement solutions to address systemic barriers and challenges that impact rural communities, co-located with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Opportunity Zones.

 **October 17–19, 2023**
Embassy Suites Baton Rouge
Baton Rouge, LA

 www.IAEOZSummit.com

INNOVATION

The Innovation in Agriculture and Energy Opportunity Zone Summit will attract stakeholders such as agriculture and energy scientists and researchers, investors, industry/government officials to engage farmers, faculty, legislators, and community activists.



MEDIA KIT



Agriculture

INNOVATION • COLLABORATION • TECHNOLOGY



Energy



Invitation to Cover the IAEOZ Summit 2023: A Pioneering Event on Agriculture and Energy Innovation

KDM & Associates has developed the concept and agenda for a series of 'Innovation in Agriculture & Energy Opportunity Zone Summits', which we launched in 2020 as an online event, to be followed by further annual Summits over a 5-year period. The IAEOZ Summits are designed to foster solutions to systemic barriers and challenges that impact rural communities, by catalyzing investment in Smart Farming and cutting-edge technologies in food production and food security, and engaging with HBCUs, Land Grant Colleges, Minority Serving Institutions, Small Businesses, and Corporate and Federal Agency partners.

World-class speakers and panelists at the IAEOZ Summits that we held in 2020-2022 focused on empowering Black and Brown farmers, and presented on topics covering agricultural literacy, the role of satellites, drones and the Internet of Things in precision farming, Government research grants and contracts, Private-Public Partnership investment and rural community revitalization, job creation and workforce development.

The 2023 IAEOZ Summit will be held as a hybrid event, based at the Embassy Suites Baton Rouge in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Leaders in business, commerce, technology, and philanthropy will discuss the changing role of farming in America – and how HBCUs and Land Grant colleges located in Opportunity Zones can serve as anchor institutions to reinvent agribusiness education, commercialization, innovation, land preservation, restoration, and a return to wealth creation within the Minority agriculture community.

We will provide actionable information on accessing funds and grants generated by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and on expanded Government contracting opportunities for MBEs driven by the landmark Executive Orders 13985 and 14008. Speakers will present case-studies of sustainability and carbon sequestration initiatives in farming, and examples of successful Minority-owned agribusiness enterprises.

We would be honored to have you cover this event. Kindly contact our media relations representative to confirm your attendance or to schedule an interview with any of the speakers or organizers.

Thank you for considering this invitation. We look forward to the possibility of your coverage of this transformative event.

Event Planning Committee
www.IAEOZSummit.com



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY



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Law Center, Minority Business Development Agency Business Centers Partner for Annual 'Innovation in Agriculture & Energy Opportunity Zone Summit'

In a collaborative effort, the Southern University Law Center (SULC) and the Louisiana Minority Business Development Agency Business Center (LA MBDA) have joined forces with the MBDA's Federal Procurement Center to orchestrate the highly anticipated IAEOZ Summit. This pivotal event is scheduled to unfold from October 17 to 19 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

"I am super excited as operator of the MBDA Federal Procurement Center to partner with a leading Land Grant HBCU, and the Louisiana MBDA Center," said Keith Moore, operator at the Minority Business Development Agency Federal Procurement Center. "This is the first time the IAEOZ Summit is collaborating with another MBDA Center – demonstrating that our Nation's MBDA Centers are committed to executing *A Team Approach* model to address the Federal and State contracting needs of our MBE clients and their success."

Over the course of the dynamic 3-day business development Summit, distinguished figures from the realms of business, commerce, technology, and philanthropy will convene to deliberate upon the evolving landscape of farming in the United States. Notably, the spotlight will shine on the pivotal role that Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Land Grant colleges play within distressed Opportunity Zones. These institutions are poised to serve as influential anchor points, spearheading the charge in agribusiness education, innovation, commercialization, and land preservation and restoration tasks.

This transformative endeavor also underscores a commitment to rekindling prosperity within minority-driven, rural communities. By harnessing the power of these institutions, the Summit aims to chart a course toward renewed wealth creation, promising a brighter future for these underserved locales.

"It is imperative, now more than ever, that we recognize the importance of agriculture, energy, workforce development, and how these sectors are intertwined," said John K. Pierre, Chancellor of Southern University Law Center. "This year's conference will shed light on how Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) and leaders can shape a future where these industries thrive and build a collaborative and sustainable society."



Summit participants will gain invaluable insights into leveraging funds and grants stemming from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and unlocking Government contracting avenues for MBEs, all catalyzed by the groundbreaking Executive Orders 13985 and 14008. Esteemed speakers will disseminate practical strategies for fostering sustainability and pioneering carbon sequestration endeavors within the realm of agriculture. Furthermore, they will highlight triumphant instances of minority-owned agribusiness ventures.

Engaging panels will delve into the realm of Smart Farming, unveiling the forefront of technological marvels in food production and security. Thought leaders will discuss pioneering methodologies and programs to revitalize rural communities, propel job creation, and nurture workforce development. This summit promises to equip attendees with actionable intelligence, forging a path toward a more resilient and inclusive agricultural landscape.

Attending the IAEOZ Summit, whether in person or virtually, offers distinct benefits depending on your preferences, circumstances, and goals. Here is a comparison of the benefits of attending the summit physically versus attending virtually:

Benefits of Attending Physically:

1. **Networking Opportunities:** In-person attendance allows for direct, face-to-face interactions with speakers, panelists, fellow attendees, numerous Federal Agency decision-makers and potential partners. These interactions can lead to deeper connections, collaborations, and partnerships.
2. **Real-time Engagement:** Physically attending allows you to engage in real-time discussions, ask questions, and participate in interactive sessions, providing a more dynamic and engaging experience.
3. **Experiential Learning:** Participating in site visits, hands-on activities, and demonstrations can offer experiential learning opportunities that virtual attendance may not fully replicate.
4. **Building Relationships:** Meeting people in person helps build stronger relationships and trust, which can be valuable for future business endeavors.
5. **Serendipitous Opportunities:** Chance encounters and impromptu conversations during breaks or social events can lead to unexpected opportunities and connections.

Registration is \$50 for in-person attendance and \$35 for virtual attendance. Participants can secure their spot and or get more information by visiting www.iaeoзумmit.com.



IAEOZ Summit Speakers

Visit www.iaeo Summit.com for complete list of speakers

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Rural Development Louisiana
State Director
USDA

Shalaya Morissette



Chief of the Minority Business
and Workforce Division
U.S. Department of Energy

Dr. Henry C. McKoy, Jr.



Director Office of State and
Community Energy Programs
U.S. Department of Energy

Dr. Kimberly A. McClain



Assistant Secretary for
Congressional and
Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Department of Housing
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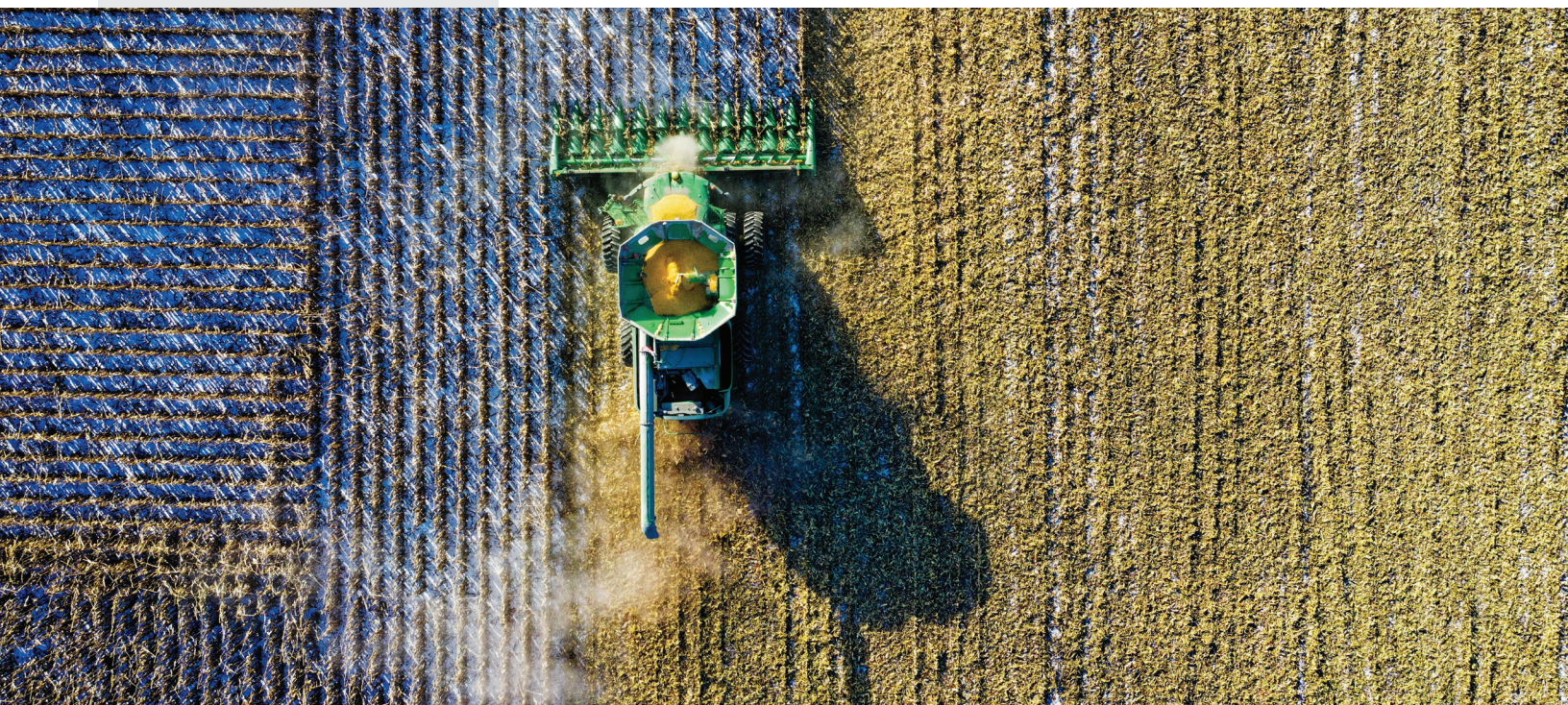
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Opportunity Zone Summit